

STATE OF MICHIGAN



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926
HOWARD A. TANNER, Director

Pte. Mouillee State Game Area
Rt. #2, Rockwood, MI 48173

December 6, 1976

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

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Mr. Robert F. Beard, President
Hi Mill Manufacturing Company
1704 Highland Road
Highland, MI 48031

Re: Status of Compliance
State Permit M00167

Dear Mr. Beard:

On December 2, 1976, Mr. Dennis Leonard inspected your seepage pond facilities and discovered that your new pond was overflowing to the marshy area adjacent to Waterbury Lake in section 23 of Highland Township. This overflow condition is in violation of section II.A. of State of Michigan permit No. M00167 issued to your company on October 31, 1975. Section II.A. states in pertinent part, "All liquid wastes.... if disposed of by impounding shall be confined within a designated area enclosed by dykes which are so constructed as to protect against loss or overflow of the contents to surface waters of the state...".

Analysis of a sample of the discharge to the swamp showed :
the following:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------|
| Total copper | - | 4.8 mg/l |
| Total aluminum | - | 25.0 mg/l |
| Total chromium | - | 0.92 mg/l |
| Hexavalent Chromium | - | 0.36 mg/l |
| pH | - | 6.0 |

The above results indicate that the metallics contained in your waste are of sufficiently high concentration as to cause lethal effects on the fish and aquatic organisms in Waterbury Lake.

In addition to the above sample, we have collected samples from your ponds on two previous occasions in 1976. Results of analysis

R. F. Beard, President
H1 Mill Mfg. Co.
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of those samples showed the following:

| Parameter | Pond No. 1 5/21/76 | Pond No. 1 11/19/76 | Discharge to Pond No. 1 11/19/76 |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Total Copper (mg/l) | 8.0 | 5.9 | 2.2 |
| Total Chrome (mg/l) | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.94 |
| Hexavalent Chrome (mg/l) | .01 | 0.14 | 0.60 |
| Total Nickle (mg/l) | .05 | --- | --- |
| Total Aluminum (mg/l) | 14.0 | 44.0 | 15.0 |
| NH ₃ -N (mg/l) | 7.0 | 12.0 | 22.0 |
| NO ₂ -N (mg/l) | --- | 1.2 | 0.07 |
| NO ₃ -N (mg/l) | --- | 89.0 | 90.0 |
| NO ₂ -NO ₃ -N (mg/l) | 74.0 | --- | --- |
| pH | 3.3 | 5.4 | 5.6 |

The above analysis indicates that the concentrations of materials in your wastewater are consistently above what would be acceptable for a surface water discharge.

In addition to your violation of section II.A. of your permit, you are also in violation of section II.E.3. requiring the submittal and approval of a preliminary engineering report and basis of design on or before March 31, 1976. Your preliminary plan was rejected by letter of June 4, 1976, from our office in which we requested resubmittal with additional information. Your October 28, 1976, letter indicates that you chose to disregard our June 4 letter and proceeded to enlarge your existing lagoon and install a second lagoon without approved plans. Although your October 28 letter states "The area has been graded so that no direct loss or overflow of process wastes will flow to the adjoining swamp and lake", our observations do not bear out that this is in fact the case.

As a result of the above conditions at your facility, we are requesting that you or your designated representative attend a meeting at our offices at 10:00 a.m. on December 20, 1976. You or your representative should be prepared to present a definitive program, including a time schedule, for correction of the problems associated with your wastewater treatment facilities. If you should have any questions involving this correspondence please feel free to contact us at (313) 379-9692.

Very truly yours,

WATER QUALITY DIVISION

Roy E. Schrameck

Roy E. Schrameck
District Engineer

RES/jf
cc: John Bohunsky